

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Arts Portfolio Agencies

Supplementary Budget Estimates 18-21 October 2010

Question: PM 131

Topic: Travel Costs

Asked By: Senator Abetz

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December

Number of pages: 5

- a) **The 2009-10 Mid Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook detailed a whole-of-government coordinated procurement arrangements for travel and related services. How has this applied to your department and portfolio agencies? Please explain the changes that have occurred to your department and portfolio agencies in relation to its travel and related services.**
- b) **Is purchasing of travel and related services less expensive under the new arrangements?**
- c) **Is purchasing of travel and related services more efficient under the new arrangements?**
- d) **Have savings been achieved in your portfolio because of the new arrangements?**
- e) **How much did your department and portfolio agencies spend on travel in 2008-09, 2009-10 and to date this financial year.**
- f) **How have staff within your department and portfolio agencies found the new arrangements? For example is it more efficient to arrange travel?**

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Answer:

Australia Council

a) As the Australia Council is a *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (CAC) agency, it has elected to opt out of this arrangement at this present time.

b) to d) Not applicable

e) The Australia Council has spent the following amounts on travel:

2008-09: \$1,691,552

2009-10: \$1,278,520

1/7/2010 - 31/10/2010: \$484,859

f) Not applicable.

National Film and Sound Archive (NFSA)

a) The NFSA did not elect to participate in the whole-of-government procurement arrangements for travel and related services.

b) Not applicable.

c) Not applicable.

d) Not applicable.

e) 2008-09 \$371,549.23

2009-10 \$309,328.38

2010-11 \$78,794.56 (to 30 September 2010)

f) Not applicable.

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Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

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National Gallery of Australia (NGA)

a) The NGA entered into an agreement with HRG for the provision of travel services from 1 October 2010.

b) As this agreement only commenced recently, the NGA is not yet in a position to determine the efficiency of the new process. It is anticipated this agreement will provide the NGA with moderate savings on travel expenditure.

c) Refer to b).

d) Refer to b).

e) 2008-09 \$867,724

2009-10 \$932,491

2010-11 \$168,584 (to 31 October 2010)

f) Refer to b).

National Library of Australia

a) The National Library of Australia has opted to join the Whole of Australian Government travel arrangements. The Library was previously a member of the Participating Agencies Travel Cluster which operated in a similar way.

b) The Library is unable to determine if any savings will result from the new arrangements at this stage.

c) The Library previously used an online booking tool for booking domestic airfares so efficiency gains have been minimal under the new arrangements.

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d) The Library is unable to determine if any savings will result from the new arrangements at this stage.

e) 2008-09 \$665,893

2009-10 \$609,479

2010-11 \$278,449 (to 2 November 2010)

f) There has been little change for staff as booking arrangements are largely the same under the new arrangements.

National Museum of Australia

a) The National Museum of Australia did not elect to participate in the whole-of-government procurement arrangements for travel and related services.

b) Not applicable.

c) Not applicable.

d) Not applicable.

e) 2008-09 \$736,000

2009-10 \$716,000

2010-11 \$194,444 (to 31 October 2010)

f) Not applicable.

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Screen Australia

a) The whole-of-Government coordinated procurement arrangements for travel and related services do not yet apply to Screen Australia.

b) Not applicable.

c) Not applicable.

d) Not applicable.

e) 2008-09 \$1,465,617

2009-10 \$979,991

2010-11 \$319,612 (to date)

f) Not applicable.